

Falcon Focus

A Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Newsletter from the Crime Prevention Unit of the Mesa Police Department

Volume 2, Issue 1

Chief Jan Strauss

February 2002

Neighborhood Watch Sign Verification Program

The Neighborhood Watch program requires two events or activities during the year between January 1st and December 31st. As a Neighborhood Watch captain you are responsible for the paperwork that needs to be turned into the police department. Effective May 1, 2001 letters are not accepted as documentation. The program requires that attendance sheets be signed by persons attending the block party, then turned into the Crime Prevention Unit within four weeks of the event for proof that the activity took place. Also, 50% of your designated area needs to participate in each event. If all requirements were met during 2001, a sticker that says "Active Neighborhood" will be sent to the Block Captain. Cover up any existing year sticker on the Neighborhood Watch signs. At the end of 2002, stickers will no longer be sent or used on the sign to show active status. The sign itself shows that you are an active Neighborhood Watch group, because at the beginning of each year we verify that your area has met the requirements of the program. The Sign Verification consists of the following steps:

1. A check is made to confirm that 2 activities took place with 50% participation.
2. If we show you are missing 1 or 2 activity dates, we will send a reminder letter to the Block Captains, Co-captains and Assistant Captains we have on file, giving them 90 days to provide us with the required documentation.
3. If you are unable to produce the required attendance sheets, the Neighborhood Watch sign is subject to removal. If we do not receive

a response from the listed Captains or Assistants after 90 days, we will mail a letter to each home involved with the Neighborhood Watch giving them 30 days to produce the required documentation. If the participating homes are unable to produce the documentation or there is no response at the end of 30 days the Neighborhood Watch sign will be removed.

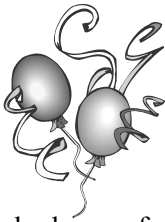
It is not our goal to remove the Neighborhood Watch signs. Our goal is to keep citizens in our neighborhoods communicating with one another. Communication among neighbors is key to the success of the Neighborhood Watch program. Neighborhood Watch is a proactive approach to crime prevention. Signs are for those neighborhoods that remain active in the program. The sign itself cannot fight crime and it cannot call the police department when there is trouble. It takes an active Neighborhood Watch with caring citizens to make those calls.

Would you like a copy of the Newsletter sent to you via e-mail? Provide me with your e-mail address and I will send you an electronic version of the Newsletter in Word format so you can cut and paste the information directly into your neighborhood newsletters. You will still continue to receive a paper copy of the Newsletter in the mail.

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SO, YOU WANT TO HAVE A PARTY!



Spring is in the air and you got a new barbeque for Christmas that is just waiting to be fired up. You say to your self, “self.... it sounds like a good opportunity to have a Neighborhood Watch activity but, how do I get started and what do I need to do first?” Well, I have the answer for you. Lets begin with the goal of the party. Is the event to meet and greet or is there a concern that needs to be addressed? It is imperative that you determine what it is you want to accomplish during the party.

Once you have decided on a fun event or informative event, you need to plan for your activity. Lets start with the informative party. This is a good opportunity to get your other block leaders involved or you can take on the task yourself. Decide on the issue you want resolved or the subject you want more information on. For example: Are you having vehicle theft and burglary problems in your area? You could invite a Crime Prevention Specialist, an auto theft detective or a member of the Community Action Team to your meeting to discuss the issue and provide information on the “Watch Your Car Program” or, are your concerns about speeding vehicles down your street? Invite Traffic Safety to explain speed reduction programs. Are you starting to get the idea? You can always go outside the tradional box of having the police department come speak at your meetings. How about having the fire department talk about fire or water safety, Red Cross on disaster preparedness or Neighborhood Outreach on registering your neighborhood.

Next, create a flyer to notify everyone about the facts of the meeting and location. If this is expected to be a quick 30 min. or so meeting you may not want to have refreshments, but if you do, coordinate with your neighbors and decide what needs to be provided. Send flyers out 2-3 weeks in advance, and then follow up with a reminder note or phone call a few nights prior to the meeting. At the meeting, the captain should introduce themselves, and have everyone attending tell something about themselves like: name, where they live, how long they have been in the neighborhood, what kind of work they do or hobbies (this info could be used for basis of your next activity, so take notes). Then introduce your guest speaker and why they were invited to your meeting. At the end, thank the speaker for attending and ask your neighbors who would be interested in helping you plan the next party.

Don’t forget to send in the attendance sheets to get credit for your activity. A meeting like this will take no time at

all to plan and put together. If you have two meetings like this per year you have met the minimum requirements of the program.

Now comes the fun stuff! Parties and get-togethers are wonderful ways for you to get to know your neighbors!

What if you have a hard time getting commitments from your neighbors to help plan a party?

The most memorable and enjoyable times, for both the planners and participants, revolve around a theme. They are fun to plan, and the more you involve your neighbors, the more they will be apt to get involved. Assign them projects as part of the planning team – put some in charge of games, others in charge of planning activities, some responsible for the food and others for decorations. Utilize their talents, whether it be cooking, performing (maybe they play a musical instrument or have other talent), organizing, decorating, etc. The more people who get involve in planning and research of the party, the more enjoyable it will be! Make planning meetings fun and quick (no more than an hour.)

How do I get my neighbors to attend the party?

The more you get people involved, the better. Assign neighbors a function related to the party. Have them order the barricades, and then be responsible for setting them up the day of the event. Make assignments for setting up chairs and tables, arranging food and drinks, decorating or setting up the games and activities. Make the party so interesting that people will want to come just to see what is going to happen! Also, publicly recognize those who helped organize and set up the party with newsletters or thank you flyers sent out to all homes on the street thanking them for attending. Ask for suggestions and solicit opinions on the party you had. If someone has specific comments about the event, let them do that part at your next party!

How much can I expect to spend?

This depends on how elaborate your party will be, who is participating, how many people are invited, and if you have assistance early in the planning stages. As a block leader, you are not required or encouraged to use your own funds to throw a party. Remember, this is a neighborhood function, and your neighborhood should be helping you.

How can I raise funds for a party?

Be creative! Have a neighborhood carwash, use the kids on the street to wash cars and charge a fee with proceeds benefiting your neighborhood party. Have a

neighborhood yard sale. Everyone donates items into one sale and proceeds are put towards your party needs. Have a bake sale, mow lawns, or just ask for donations for your neighbors. Have a silent auction with items donated from neighbors. You can always ask your local businesses to help support your neighborhood party and your efforts to reduce crime in the community.

What kind of activities can we do?

Kids are easy to please, and most any activity will keep them occupied. Here are a few suggestions: talent competition (everyone gets an award), magic show, children's Olympics with sack races, 3 legged races, balloon toss, egg run, etc., Haunted house, piñata, spelling bee, show and tell, kids dessert taste test, cakewalk, and a craft table. Adults are a little more complicated, sophisticated and harder to please. Some ideas are listed in the column to the right.

What can I do to make the party extra special?

I have discovered at many of the events I have attended that when you give something away, it makes people very happy. Door prizes and giveaway items are a good idea to keep neighbors at the event and to keep the party flowing. Be creative on how you give the door prizes. Make puzzles, play bingo, have a scavenger hunt or even hide them under the chairs. You can purchase items as giveaways and door prizes with the funds you raised from neighborhood activities or ask your local business for donations. Some ideas for items could be gift certificates to local restaurants, stores and services, gift baskets or even homemade items. Many people in your Neighborhood Watch group may work for companies that have products they could donate for your event. Doesn't hurt to ask! Write letters and make phone calls to various agencies that may have items they could provide as giveaway items at the event. Some places you could check are: city, county and state agencies, zoos, museums, schools, hospitals and local merchants.

I have provided you with a lot of great information that I hope will recharge your interest in having your next party. Your planning meeting should be quick, painless and fun. I look forward to hearing about all the fantastic events you will have this year. If are planning to have a party that is not the traditional potluck or barbeque, I would like to hear about it and possibly attend. I would be interested in taking a photo and obtaining information about the party for a future issue of the Falcon Focus.

Remember, this is a neighborhood activity! Don't forget to ask your neighbors if they would like to help organize the event. Your neighbors have talents and contacts that will make your party a huge success.

THEME PARTIES

Harry Potter
Blues (New Orleans)
Travel
Halloween
Easter
New Years
4th Of July
Christmas
Valentines
St. Patrick
Thanksgiving
Western
Outer-space
Sports
Luau
Bavarian
Arctic
Asian
African
Australian
Pets
Camping
Patriotic
Cartoon
50's
Disco
Beach
All American Day (Baseball, hotdogs & apple pie)
Cultural night

PARTY IDEAS

Sock-hop
Ice cream social
Pot-luck
Progressive dinner
Bike parade
Cookie exchange
Cakewalk
Mini carnival
Arts & crafts
Chili-cook off
Sidewalk chalk art
Water balloons
Bike rodeo
Food drives
Guys night
Gals night
Goofy hair
Backwards t-shirts
Face painting
Stand up comedy
Karaoke
Coconut bowling
Pajama party
Pancake Breakfast
Scavenger hunt
Bingo
Salsa contest
Haunted house
Show & tell
Magic show
Talent show
Carnival
Piñata

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MESA DAY MINIATURE FLOAT PARADE & FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2002

MAIN STREET AND PIONEER PARK, 526 E. MAIN

10A.M. (PARADE), 11 A.M.-3:30 P.M. (FESTIVAL)

COMMUNITY PARADE (ALONG MAIN STREET), CULMINATING IN DAY-LONG FAMILY EVENT AT THE PARK

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH CAPTAIN'S MEETING

MARCH 21ST, 2002 7:00 P.M.

MESA POLICE CENTRAL SUBSTATION

120 N. ROBSON STREET

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LEADERS TO MEET YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH COORDINATOR, OTHER BLOCK CAPTAINS AND RECEIVE INFORMATION TO IMPROVE YOUR WATCH PROGRAM.

CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA

PIONEER PARK, 525 E. MAIN STREET

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 3-4, 2002

MEXICAN CULTURAL CELEBRATION, WITH AUTHENTIC FOOD, MUSIC, CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES, AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

EVENING IN THE PARK

RED MOUNTAIN PARK, 7745 E. BROWN ROAD

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2002 6:30 TO 9:30 P.M.

EVENING FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL, WITH OLD-TIME GAMES, ENTERTAINMENT, FIREWORKS, FOOD BOOTHS.

G.A.I.N. Kick-Off 2002

SEPTEMBER 26TH, LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED

OPPORTUNITY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH LEADERS TO MEET MESA CITY AND POLICE PERSONNEL, AND GATHER INFORMATION TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND PREPARE FOR THEIR G.A.I.N. EVENT.

G.A.I.N. 2002

GETTING ARIZONA INVOLVED IN NEIGHBORHOODS

OCTOBER, DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH EVENTS AND PARTIES HELD THROUGHOUT MESA.

New & Reactivated Watch Groups

2800 - 2900 E. Minton	Arthur & Diana Seiter Sandy & Bipin Kanabar Charlie & Beth Burnett Dan & Lori Olsen	Reactivated
2800 -2900 E. Dartmouth	Michelle & Joe Gregory Denise & Wally McCue	New
3000 - 3100 E. Harmony	Karen & Collin Udall	New
3100 E. Holmes	Julie & Steve Shepherd	New
5100 E. Evergreen	Donna Brandel Joe & Nancy Willard Christine Konazewski	New
2400 E. Juanita	Molly & Steven Arthur Dale & Pat Purrington	New
500 S. Ridge	John Beimfohr Stuart & Valerie Blair	New
2900 E. Dartmouth	Michelle & Joe Gregory Denise & Wally McCue	New
3400-3500 E. Covina	Lawerence Hummel Craig Olsen	Reactivated
2800 E. Dragoon	Sammi St. George Victoria Perkins Marc DeRosa	New
2600-2700 E. El Moro	Deb O' Grady	Reactivated
1800 S. Rose	David Brown	Reactivated
2400-2500 E. Jacinto	Barbara Burley	Reactivated
2200-2300 E. Harmony	Erwinn Sutton Valerie & Morgan Tanner Anna & Greg Gustafson Ronni & Paul antons Heather & Darwin Rice	New
Montecito Zone 1	Brenda & Robert Laufer	New
Montecito Zone 2	Sue Wright	
Montecito Zone 3	Cynthia & Ernie Berriz	
Montecito Zone 4	Margie Manning	
Montecito Zone 5	Mark & Sheri Reda	
Montecito Zone 6	Russ & Lisa Anderson Ed & Liz Werzyn	
Montecito Zone 7	Sue Wright	
Montecito Zone 8	Jim & Sandy Kuchan George & Chris Jaimes	
Montecito Zone 9	David Henderson Isabel Chanley Rich & Tracy Fanslow	
Montecito Zone 10	Mike & Pam Leslie	
Montecito Zone 11	Stanley Leland	

I want to thank each and every one of these Block Captains for all the time and effort they have put into the reactivation of / or starting of a Neighborhood Watch in their area. It takes sincere dedication and strong commitment to challenge your neighborhood and community in the fight against crime. Keep up the good work.

CHILD ID BOOKLET

The Polly Klass Foundation has a child safety and id booklet that can be requested by calling 1-800-587-HELP or visit their web site at:

www.pollyklaas.org/safetykit.htm

False Alarms: The Million-Dollar Problem

Alarms were originally designed to protect lives and property. Properly installed, used and maintained, alarms are a real asset. When misused, they become a liability. Each year false alarms cost all of us millions of dollars and thousands of wasted man-hours.

The Mesa Police and Fire department, as well as the security companies, must spend a significant amount of time and money reacting to false alarms. You, as the system user, also experience the inconvenience of false alarms and the assessment of fines. Mesa receives about 21,000 alarm calls and processes 5000 new permit requests per year.

What Is a False Alarm?

A false alarm is any alarm caused by human error or equipment problems, requiring police response, with no evidence of an actual crime having been committed.

What are the most frequent errors that cause false alarms?

- Use of incorrect key pad codes
- Failure to train other authorized users (i.e., sitters, relatives, children, visitors, etc.)
- Failure to secure doors and windows before turning on alarm

What can you do to reduce false alarms?

- Make sure everyone is familiar with alarm system operations.
- Secure doors and windows before turning on system.
- Be aware of changes in the environment (i.e., new animals, design changes, seasonal decorations, plants, etc.).
- Notify monitoring facility of any and all changes (i.e., house guests, name changes, new employees, termination of employees, etc.).

False Alarm Awareness School

A free False Alarm Awareness School is offered every month. The class provides reasons for false alarm activations and ways to prevent them. It also includes instruction and education on the alarm ordinance, dispatch procedures, effects of false alarms on the police department, maintenance and care of alarm systems, and false alarm prevention tips. Participants receive a certificate for waiver of a \$50 false alarm assessment.

Classes are held at the Saguaro Room, Mesa Public Library, 64 E. 1st Street. Please call the Alarm Coordinator Debbie Langford at (480) 644-3904, or the Alarm Clerk at (480) 644-2699, to register for the next class. Debbie is also available for presentations at your next Block Watch meeting.



Quick and Easy Barbeque sausage



Slice 2-3 beef sausage links ½ inch thick or use 2-3 packages of cocktail sausage, then put into crock-pot. Add large pieces of chopped onion if desired. Pour in 1 bottle of favorite bar-b-que sauce and heat until hot. Serve at Block Watch party and you will be a big hit.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Glarch

This unusual recipe yields a wonderfully stretchy, putty-like material.

1-cup white glue
1-cup liquid starch
Food coloring

Put the glue in an old plastic container and add food coloring. Pour in the liquid starch, a little bit at a time, stirring continuously. Keep stirring until the mixture holds together in putty. Test it with your finger. If it's too sticky, add more starch in small amounts. Continue to stir until you get a smooth rubbery consistency. Now have fun playing, pulling and stretching. Store mixture in a plastic bag or airtight container. It will last without refrigeration.

Goopy ooze

1-cup cornstarch
1-cup water
Food coloring

Add food coloring to water and combine with cornstarch in a bowl. Have fun squeezing and pulling the goop. Store in covered container. If it dries out, revive by adding small amounts of water.



Meet Your Police Department!

Each newsletter will feature different units of the Mesa Police Department.



Animal Control

It is the policy of the Mesa Police Animal Control unit to provide the citizens of Mesa with courteous, professional and effective animal control, and to ensure that the rights of animal owners and non-owners are protected and served. Animal Control also strives to educate citizens on the importance of licensing their dogs, encourages sterilization of pets, and teaches proper care of pets.

Mesa Animal Control Officers provide service everyday from 6:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. All calls for animal control service, including dead animal pickup, must be made to the police non-emergency number (480-644-2211) which is available 24 hours a day. This includes requests for animal pickups or to report animals at large, animal bites, complaints about animal related noise disturbances, unsanitary premises, or complaints about livestock restrictions. Mesa Animal Control Officers also conduct welfare checks on animals, rescue injured or sick animals, investigate abandonment, cruelty or neglect to animals, and process vicious dog incidents. Animal Control Officers will assist with wild animals including snakes and native wildlife. Dead animal pickups, which must be less than 150 pounds, are handled by an independent contractor everyday from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Animals impounded by Mesa Animal Control are taken to the Maricopa County Animal Care and Control facility at 2630 W 8th St., Mesa. The phone number to the shelter is (480)-894-3310.

Mesa Animal Control also provides humane live-animal traps for residents of Mesa to use in capturing nuisance animals. The traps are given out on Thursdays only, between 12:00 noon and 4:00 p.m. A \$30.00 security deposit is required and must be exact cash or a check. The deposit is returned upon receipt of the trap. Reservations must be made and the trap must be picked up at and returned to the main police station, 130 N Robson.

The unit consists of seven field officers, a clerical assistant, and a supervisor. An average of 1100 calls are handled each month and approximately 400 animals are impounded, making it one of the busiest units in the entire department!

If a citizen has questions about any animal related ordinance or any animal situation, they may call the Mesa Animal Control office at (480)-644-2268 and a representative will try to assist. The office is staffed Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., not including holidays. The Animal Control Supervisor is Diane Brady who can be reached direct at (480)-644-2044.

Bike Patrol

The Mesa Police Department Bike Unit began in September of 1991. The six-month pilot program started with six officers and one sergeant. The Department now has Bike Officers in each of the four districts. Collectively there are 4 Bike Sergeants and 46 Bike Officers, including the 24 School Resource Officers (SRO).

The Bike Unit is the visible community-policing arm of the patrol district. Operating as a patrol squad, Bike Officers are responsible for the following activities:

- **Patrol high crime areas**
- **Assist patrol in answering calls for service**
- **Assisting with Community Policing projects**

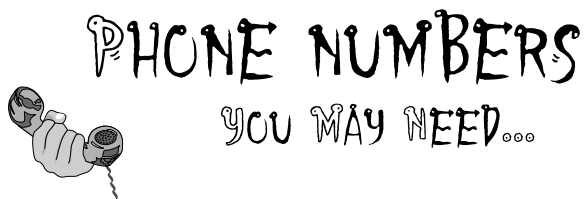
The Bike Unit is one of the patrol districts prominent community resources. Bike Officers regularly engage in community related activities including:

- **Bike Safety Rodeos**
- **Sex Offender Community Notifications**
- **Public Safety Fairs**
- **Citizen Academy Presentations**
- **Community Meetings / Block Watch**
- **Neighborhood Based Clean-ups**
- **City Sponsored Festivals and Parades**
- **Other Community Events**

Bike patrols have several advantages over traditional police patrol.

- **Bicycles are an excellent Community Policing tool. Officers on bikes are viewed as much more approachable, thus improving trust and relations between the citizens and police.**
- **Bike Officers are able to be proactive in fighting crime, rather than reactive. Officers work closely with citizens and other departments to address concerns before they become problems.**
- **Bike patrols are cost effective. Purchase and maintenance costs are less than patrol vehicles.**
- **Bicycles give officers a "stealth" advantage. They are quieter, smaller and can go places that are not accessible to patrol vehicles.**

Sgt. Roger Halappa is the Falcon District Bike Supervisor and can be reached at (480) 644-3933



Mesa Police Department

Emergency.....	9-1-1
Non-Emergency.....	644-2211
(Suspicious Activity)	
General Information.....	644-2324
Anonymous Reporting.....	644-2000
Traffic Unit.....	644-3533
(Motor Officers)	
Falcon Substation.....	644-2598
(Speed Radar Trailer)	

City Of Mesa

Graffiti Paintout.....	644-3083
Alarm Coordinator.....	644-2699
Pace Car Program.....	644-5004
Radar Gun Checkout.....	644-2160
Neighborhood Outreach.....	644-4067
Street Lights.....	644-2160
Street Barricades.....	644-2160
Mesa Park Rangers.....	644-2942
After 5pm and weekends.....	644-2262
Neighborhood Clean ups.....	644-2744
Clean Sweep.....	644-4423
Fire Prevention.....	644-2622
Code Compliance.....	644-2061

Hotlines

Gang Hotline (644-GANG)	644-4264
Narcotics Hotline.....	644-6272
Stolen Vehicle/Chop Shop Hotline.....	644-2880
Street Light Hotline.....	644-3191
Fraud Alert Hotline.....	644-2345

Watch Your Car Program Registration

1-888-668-4433

Reminders:

- The Neighborhood Watch Program requires **2 meetings or events** per calendar year, **50% participation** of occupied homes at each event and at least **1 Block Captain**.
- If you need to order barricades for your block party/meeting, please call the City of Mesa Transportation Division at 644-2160. The Mesa Police Department does not provide barricades.
- Please don't forget to send in your attendance sheets immediately following your meeting/party. It is imperative that we have them to keep our records in order and to document that you have met the requirements of the Neighborhood Watch program. Attendance sheets can be faxed to 480-644-2800. Envelopes can be provided by calling 644-2300.
- If you require pamphlets/brochures for a meeting, please contact us at least three weeks prior to your meeting. We now have many brochures in Spanish and our literature is also available online.
www.ci.mesa.az.us/police/commrel.htm.
- If there are any changes to your Neighborhood Watch group we need to know. This includes a merging with other groups, add-on or removal of additional streets, a new captain or co-captain, and any other changes that would affect your group.
- To request a visit from the Fire Department for your block party/event, please call 644-2200 and make arrangements with Fire Prevention 2 weeks in advanced.
- To request a visit from the Beat Officer, Sgt., Bike Squad or Community Action Team, you need to call me at 644-2539 at least three weeks prior to your event. There are no guarantees that a Police Unit will visit your event. They are still subject to calls for service, but will make every attempt to stop by for a visit.
- Lock It Or Loose It! Secure your vehicle windows and doors to deter theft and close the garage door to eliminate opportunity.

Just the Facts!

Total Mesa Neighborhood Watches.....	707
Falcon District.....	213
Superstition District.....	282
Dobson District.....	90
Central District.....	112
Total Captains & Assistants.....	1,252
Falcon Captains & Assistants.....	356



*Happy
Presidents
Day!*

***Be an
"Official Pace Car"
for your neighborhood!***

Speeding in our neighborhoods is a problem that Mesa, like most other communities, is working hard to stop! A Pace Car Program is a way that a neighborhood can work together to stop speeding!

Our Children

- The leading cause of death for school age children in the United States is traffic crashes.

Our Town

- In Mesa, speeding is the driving infraction that most commonly occurs right before a crash.

Our Responsibility

- As parents and residents, we must take a stand against speeding in our neighborhoods!

To become an 'Official Pace Car' for your neighborhood, simply contact Susan Guthrie-Shingleton, Mesa Transportation Division, at (480) 644-5004 for a pledge form or visit the web at:
www.ci.mesa.az.us/transportation/traffic_safety_education
Once you return the pledge, you will be mailed an "Official Pace Car" window sticker to display in your car window. The sticker indicates your commitment to obeying the speed limit. If the "Pace Car" isn't speeding, then neither are the cars behind it!

**Prevention is everywhere.
Let's work together to fight
CRIME!**

Crime Prevention Specialist Jerry Quarles
Falcon District Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
Office: 480-644-2539

Community Relations Unit:
480-644-2300
Fax: 480-644-2800

Mesa City Home Page:
www.ci.mesa.az.us